

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend or add the following paragraph(s) in the specification as follows:

In the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 25:

Through the above construction, after putting food to be stored into the vacuum packaging bag 50 and locating an [outlet] inlet of the vacuum packaging bag between the upper and lower rubber packings 22 and 12, a user presses the upper rubber packing 22 formed in the hood 20 down so as to allow the upper and lower rubber packings 22 and 12 to come into contact with each other.

In the paragraphs beginning at page 9, line 1:

Preferably, the separation unit may comprise an [outlet] inlet port and an outlet port.

Preferably, the vacuum packaging machine may further comprise a communicating pipe connected to both the [outlet] inlet port and the outlet port of the separation unit.

Preferably, the separation unit may communicate with filter means comprising a filter casing, a filter inserted into the filter casing to eliminate the impurities, and a filter casing cover.

Further, the present invention provides a vacuum packaging machine, comprising a housing having a separation assembly with a rubber packing attached to a border thereof and a heater for sealing a vacuum packaging bag, the separation assembly including a separation assembly casing having an outlet formed therein, and a cover mounted on the casing and provided with an [outlet] inlet formed in a top surface thereof and a rubber packing; and a hood hingedly connected to the housing to selectively open and close a top of the housing, the hood having a rubber packing; wherein the vacuum packaging machine forms a vacuum through a pump when the rubber packings of both the hood and the housing come into contact with each other.

In the paragraphs beginning at page 18, line 17:

The separation unit 60 is comprised of an [outlet] inlet port 62, an outlet port 64, a partition 66 used to fix both the [outlet] inlet port 62 and the outlet port 64 into the receiving hole H formed in the side wall of the housing 10, and an [outlet] inlet portion 62a and an outlet

portion 64a formed on a rear surface of the partition 66 to communicate with the [outlet] inlet port 62 and the outlet port 64, respectively. The [outlet] inlet port 62 communicates with the outlet 110b of the cover 11b through a tube T1, and the outlet port 64 communicates with an [outlet] inlet (not shown) of a vacuum pump (not shown) through a tube T2.

If food having a minimal amount of water or minimal impurities or no water or no impurities needs to be put into a vacuum packaging bag and vacuum sealed, the separation unit 60 is inserted into a communicating pipe 70, as shown in FIG. 5a.

The communicating pipe 70 is comprised of an [outlet] inlet pipe 72 and an outlet pipe 74 connected to the [outlet] inlet portion 62a and the outlet portion 64a, respectively. The [outlet] inlet pipe 72 and the outlet pipe 74 communicate with each other to serve to guide air to the vacuum pump (not shown).

Further, if food having a high water content or many impurities needs to be put into a vacuum packaging bag and vacuum sealed, the communicating pipe 70 is disconnected from the separation unit 60, and the [outlet] inlet portion 62a and the outlet portion 64a of the separation unit 60 are inserted into a filter means 80.

The filter means 80 is comprised of a filter casing 82, a filter 84 inserted into the filter casing 82 to remove impurities, and a filter casing cover 86.

The filter casing 82 has an [outlet] inlet hole 82a and an outlet hole 84a formed in an outer surface thereof to allow the [outlet] inlet portion 62a and the outlet portion 64a to be inserted thereinto, respectively. Further, the filter casing 82 has a circular groove 82c is formed in an upper inner circumference thereof to receive a projection 86a formed on a lower outer circumference of the cover 86, thus allowing the cover 86 to be detachably attached to the casing 82.

In the paragraphs beginning at page 24, line 19:

The separation assembly 11 of the housing 10 is comprised of a separation assembly casing 11a with an outlet 110a formed therein, and a cover 11b mounted on the casing 11a and provided with an [outlet] inlet 110b formed in a top surface thereof. A groove 112b for allowing the rubber packing 12 to be mounted therein is formed in the border of the cover 11b, so that the rubber packing 12 can be inserted into the groove 112b.

In the paragraphs beginning at page 24, line 19:

At the time of the vacuumizing operation, the oil and water flowing out from contents contained in the vacuum packaging bag drops to the cover 11b of the separation assembly 11, flows into the [outlet] inlet 110b formed in the cover 11b, and is then stored in the separation assembly casing 11a. Further, air is discharged through the outlet 110a.

In the paragraphs beginning at page 25, line 24:

Further, it is preferable to form the cover 11b to have a certain gradient to allow any oil or water to rapidly flow into the [outlet] inlet.